

REMARKS35 USC Section 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-4 and 9-14 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Denesuk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,196,156) in view of Vickers (U.S. Patent No. 5,678,247). Referring to claims 1-4 and 14, the Examiner submits that Denesuk et al. disclose (a) an animal bed encasing comprising an enclosure having a face textile 12 with an exterior surface and an interior surface and an odor receiving layer on the interior surface (Denesuk et al., col. 3, lines 7-10 and col. 28, lines 49-65, col. 29, lines 1-21) and (b) that the odor receiving layer comprises either an absorbing agent or an adsorbing agent which is activated charcoal (Denesuk et al., col. 28, lines 49-65). The Examiner also submits that Denesuk et al. is not specific as to the location of the odor absorbing material, but that Vickers teaches the use of a layer of odor absorbing material 24 formed of fiber and adhesively bonded charcoal disposed on the interior surface of the face textile 20 and the use of a backing material 22 disposed adjacent to the odor receiving layer.

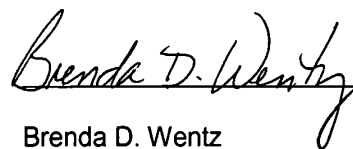
Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14 to claim an animal bed and to further include the limitations that the animal bed comprises a removable encasing and a cushioning core disposed in a specific configuration to one another. As a result of Applicants claim amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Denesuk et al. and Vickers do not suggest or teach Applicants invention as now claimed in currently amended claims 1 and 14, and since claims 2-4 and 9-13 depend from currently amended claim 1 or from each other, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome.

Claims 5-8 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the combination of Denesuk et al. and Vickers as applied to claims 1-4 and 9-13 above, and further in view of Ryan et al. (5,019,062). Since claims 5-8 depend from currently amended claim 1 discussed above, Applicants respectfully contend that the rejection of claims 5-8 has been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that claims 1-14 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

February 5, 2003

Respectfully requested,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda D. Wentz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brenda D. Wentz

Agent for Applicant(s)

Registration Number: 48,643

(864) 503-1597